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Population ageing in Europe and Asia: Beyond traditional perspectives

Arun Balachandran

Propositions

- 1) New comparative population ageing indicators that are accommodating for multiple dimensions of population ageing, point to higher diversity in current and projected population ageing levels across regions, sex and educational groups in Europe and Asia (*this thesis*).
- 2) The share of elderly in the population is found to be higher compared to traditional estimates in populations lagging in life expectancy, health, and human capital attainments, such as women in Asia, Eastern European populations and the low educated (*this thesis*).
- 3) Among both men and women, the onset of “old age” is at higher ages for those with higher educational levels compared to those with lower educational levels (*this thesis*).
- 4) For the future, population ageing is expected to rise further, predominantly in Asia, resulting in smaller differences between Asia and Europe in population ageing (*this thesis*).
- 5) Particularly in Asia, the responsiveness of future population ageing to a rise in education is high (*this thesis*).
- 6) Traditional approaches that do not accommodate for differentials in life expectancy, health and human capital across countries (seriously) overestimate population ageing in Europe and (seriously) underestimate population ageing in Asia (*this thesis*).
- 7) Analysis of population ageing at decentralized levels using context-specific measures gives better understanding of population ageing rather than the use of a single international measure across countries (*this thesis*).
- 8) A multi-dimensional approach to population ageing, although very meaningful, is unfortunately, often infeasible due to insufficient data (*this thesis*).
- 9) Age is just a number, but the value of the number differs across cultures. (*own reflection*).